

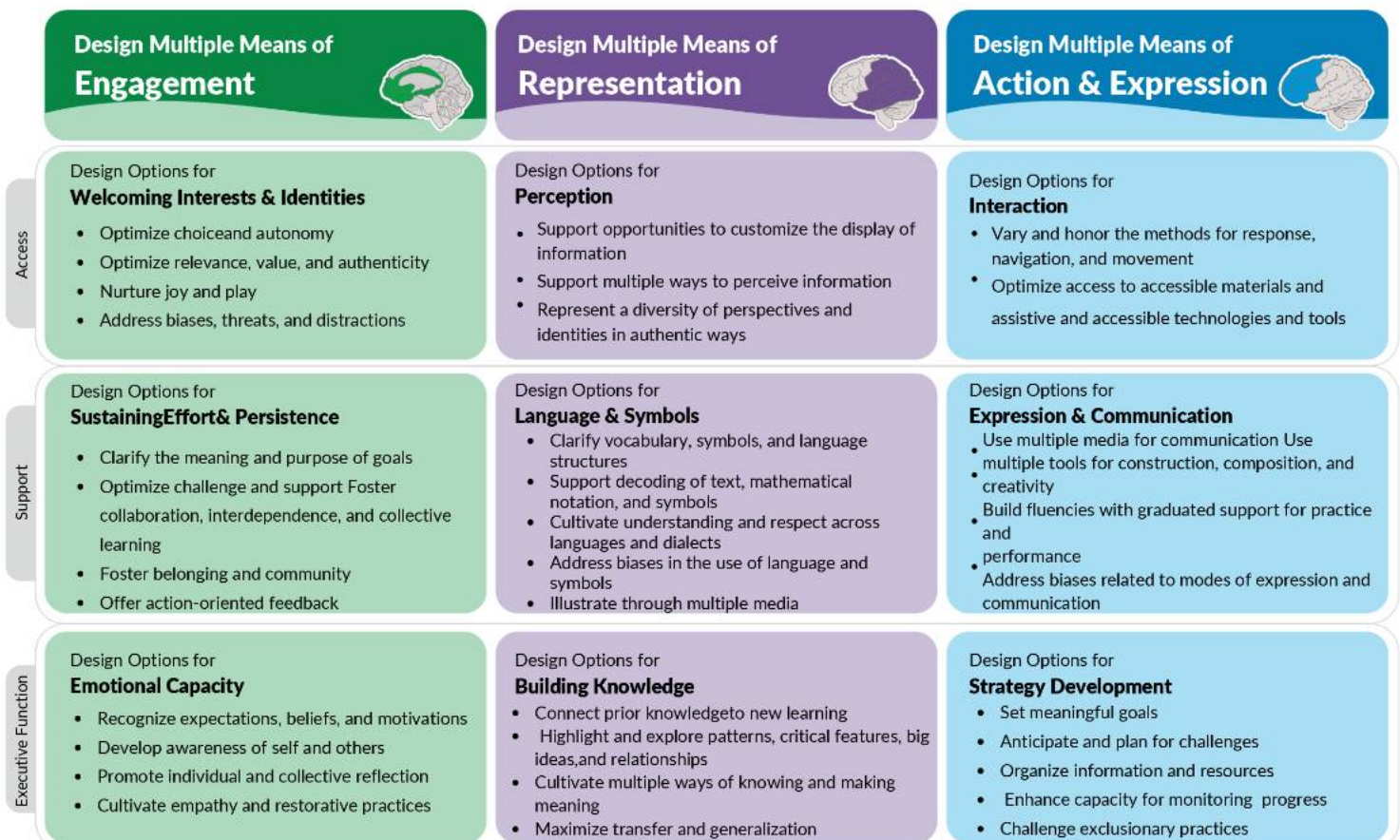


Supporting Neurodivergent Students in Creative Disciplines

The key to support is **Listen, Ask and Kindness**. Working in partnership with the student you can find creative solutions that work for all.

CAST Universal Design for Learning Guidelines

The goal of UDL is **learner agency** that is purposeful & reflective, resourceful & authentic, strategic & action-oriented.





Executive Function Boosts

- Visual timelines, checklists, and calendars
- Micro-deadlines and scaffolded steps
- Reminder systems (e.g., shared boards, calendar alerts)
- Co-working sprints for paperwork tasks

Communication

- Clear, literal language in briefs
- Written summaries after verbal instructions
- Advance notice of changes
- Predictable formats for critiques
- Alternative participation options (e.g., written feedback)
- Class chat channels

Sensory & Environmental Supports

- Low-sensory spaces and noise-reduction tools
- Consistent lighting/sound levels
- Quiet zones for editing or planning
- Movement breaks and flexible seating

Flexible Assessment & Participation

- Alternative formats (video essays, oral presentations)
- Written feedback options
- Strengths-first critique protocols

Exemplars: Scaffolding, Not Templates

Exemplars help neurodivergent learners by reducing ambiguity, supporting visual and pattern-based thinking, clarifying hidden academic expectations, and encouraging adaptation and originality.

Benefits of Exemplars

- Reduce cognitive load and simplify complex tasks
- Provide visual structure and concrete patterns
- Clarify expectations and reduce anxiety
- Support abstract thinking and motivation
- Encourage evaluative judgment and creativity